

Rules For Wildlife Management Areas

General

- Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Hunting & Trapping

Please refer to the current hunting and trapping seasons found in this digest. Special seasons and bag limits that apply to a wildlife management area will be posted at the entrance.

Firearms

- It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasants, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel or turkey; and additionally, migratory game birds on Department owned lands east of the Blue Ridge; or by permit issued by the Department; or by concealed handgun permit issued by a Circuit Court.
- It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA.
- Target shooting is permitted on designated ranges only.

Fishing, Boating and Swimming

Please refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for any special creel and size restrictions that may apply to WMA.

- It is unlawful to use boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail or by mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel, unless otherwise posted.
- Swimming is prohibited. Anglers actively engaged in fishing, hunters actively engaged in hunting, and trappers lawfully trapping may wade in public fishing lakes.
- It is unlawful to use trotlines on public fishing lakes.

Camping/Fires

- Primitive camping is permitted for up to 14 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp or fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted.
- It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

Dogs

- It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding and Hiking

- Horseback and bicycle riding are welcome on all roads and trails unless otherwise posted. Please avoid riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. Riders and cyclists should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Hiking is welcome. Hikers should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- Blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Vehicles

- Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Cross-country motor vehicle travel (off-road travel) is prohibited.
- Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

Resource and Property Damage

- It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy or remove vegetation, or to remove minerals, artifacts or other property from the area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.

Other uses are allowed only by written authorization from the Department or by posted rules.